

# Lutheran Tidings

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## A Most Joyous Christmas — 1947

### Be Welcome Again, God's Angels Bright

Be welcome again, God's angels bright,  
From mansions of light and glory,  
To publish anew this wintry night  
The news of your joyful story;  
Ye herald to all that yearn for light  
New Year after winter hoary.

With gladness we hear your sweet refrain  
In praise of God's glory solely;  
Ye will not this blessed night disdain  
To enter our dwellings lowly  
And bring to each yearning heart again  
The joy that is pure and holy.

In homes of the poor, in mansions rare,  
With light thro' the windows glowing,  
We harbor the babes as sweet and fair  
As flowers in meadows growing;  
Oh, deign with these little ones to share  
The joy from your message flowing.

God's angels with joy to men descend  
Where hymns to God's praise are chanted;  
His comfort and peace the Lord will lend  
To all who for peace have panted;  
The portals of heaven open stand;  
The kingdom to us is granted.

—N. F. S. Grundtvig.



## The Christmas Story

Luke 2, 1-20

Now it came to pass in those days, there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to enroll themselves, everyone to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David; to enroll himself with Mary, who was betrothed to him, being great with child. And it came to pass, while they were there, the days were fulfilled that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son; and she wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds in the same country abiding in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flock. And an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this is the sign unto you; Ye shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased."

And it came to pass, when the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing that is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found both Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger. And when they saw it, they made known concerning the saying which was spoken to them about this child. And all that heard it wondered at the things which were spoken unto them by the Shepherds. But Mary kept all these sayings, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, even as it was spoken unto them.

## What Does Christmas Mean To You?

This morning very early I woke up—or was I really awake—with the above mentioned question in heart and mind. It must have come to me during the night. The question is not a universal one. It is not: What does Christmas mean to other people or to the world? It is a question concerning me personally.

From the angelic message and from the Gospel of St. John 3,16, we know what Christmas means to the world. It is the fulfillment of God's promise; the revelation of God's love.

But what does it mean to me—to you?—Much more than I am able to tell or describe. What the influence of Christmas has had upon my spiritual life from childhood throughout the years and even to this day when my hair has turned gray, no one but the triune God in Heaven knows fully. It cannot be on record here on earth. It is only written in the Book of Life.

I can mention a few phases of this experience, but the undercurrent is not thereby fully revealed.—To begin with Christmas means: **Preparation**. There are certain men and women that I would like very much to talk to and to be together with them once more in this life, in fact I am longing for them. This will likely be impossible in many instances, as they are so far away, some even in other distant parts of the world.

But this is something I can do: I can send a message, a greeting through the mail. But let us remember that message must be prepared. I can also include such friends in my prayers. But to pray is also preparation.

As a minister of the gospel I have the privilege to bring the good message, the glad tidings, to as many people as I meet in and outside the congregation. But that message must be prepared before Christmas so it is ready when called for. I can even send out such a message through our church papers.—I like to visit sick people in the homes or in the hospital and

wish them a "Merry Christmas." It all calls for preparation.

Then there is something more: **Christmas is Christian Fellowship**. Mother and I expect to have as many as possible of our children and grandchildren with us during the Christmas season and share with them, as well as with many friends, the joy that has come to the world with the Christmas message. Thank God we have had many, many blessed hours in church and home through the years that have gone by.

Speaking of fellowship, there is still something more. I love—as I know many other people do—the cozy corner for reading and for my quiet hours. And when I read the Christmas magazines, "Julegranen," "Yule," "Jul i Vesterheimen," "Christmas Chimes" and others, I have in a most wonderful way communication or fellowship with the authors and writers of these many Christmas messages. I enjoy that very much. It means Christmas again.

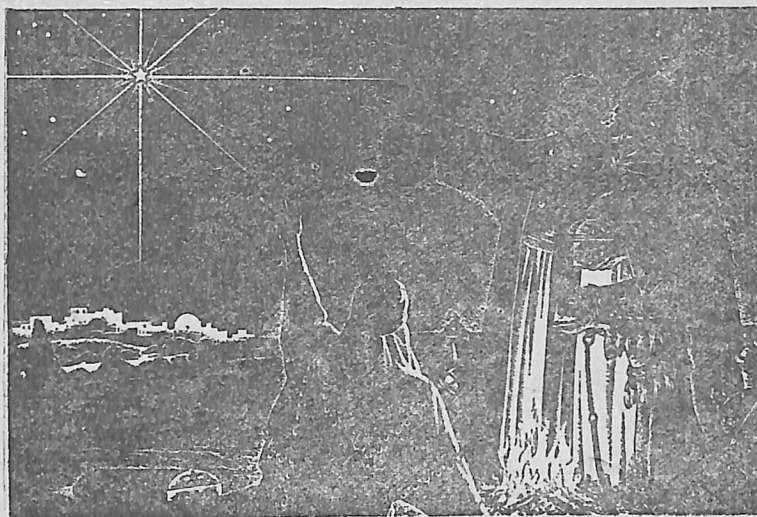
But there is something more and the most important: **Christmas means to me a Heavenly Blessing**. Christ did not only come to save a world from sin. He also came to save my soul. I have a Saviour. When I was baptized God became my heavenly Father, and I His child.—Jesus became my Saviour and the Holy Spirit my comforter and guardian in life and in death.

Christmas was a new beginning in the world. Baptism was a new beginning in my life and there is one thought that I especially cherish: As God not only began in Christ, He also fulfilled; it was finished. And so with me. Being confident of this very fact, that "He who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." These words of the great Apostle Paul is a statement of trust. Peter expresses the same faith: He (God) careth for you.

What does Christmas mean to me? Everything good in Heaven and on earth from now and forever more.—And now I pass the question on: **What does Christmas mean to you?**

P. Rasmussen.





The three wise men found their greatest happiness at the end of their quest . . .

## The Grace Of God

The Danish hymn-writer, Grundtvig, states in a psalm that humanly speaking there is no excelsior to man's need for God's grace.

Grundtvig was so familiar with cultured human life that he in old age declared himself to be thoroughly at home in all humanness. He knew poetry so well that he became the skald of his age. His historical intuition reached out so far that modern historians are only now beginning to catch up with him. He could inspire farmers to take a new course in the whole agricultural enterprise. He could give young people an organic formula for home-making. He knew patriotism and universalism. Natural science was still infantile but he understood it.

He loved human culture-life so passionately that he aroused a zestful desire to live it. To take up one's cross and carry it meant to him that man's primary obligation is to take up the one human life given in birth and live it. Man must live with himself, with woman, child, friend and "Landsmand"; with plants, animals, and soil, with memories and aspirations, with fears and hopes, with surprises and tragedies, with blistering heat and refreshing rain. Man must live with his language and experience his kinship with his people, with the native way of that people and avoid false emulations.

The reason why Grundtvig could so daringly urge people to indulge in human living was that he knew such living would yield the choicest of all fruits, the soul's hunger for God's grace. Earthly cultural human life consists of great time limited illusions which must be trusted, lived and spent if they are to render their service. Only by living poetry, history, science, marriage, etc., fully does man discover that human life lacks the one thing needful, grace.

Man and woman devote themselves to song and music, they give moments of thrill and exultation to millions of people. They win a confidence which seems to be permanent. Yet they find themselves some day

in isolation, and maybe Potter's field becomes their graveyard. The death-germ, pride, did its job. The human body may be so perfect, that the inhabitant need not discuss it, yet it ends in disgrace. An obscure province may raise itself up to a magnificent empire, but all empires culminate in shame. The poetical language becomes dry grammar and hollow elocution. Ethereal courtship develops into respectable marriage.

The people who have lived human life will find themselves in the innermost sanctuary where there is nothing, not even a symbol. The last illusion has lost its attraction for it lacked the grace in which there is no death principle. Here is the sacred nothingness, the blessed spirit poverty. Man has been emptied, he is deadily tired, and he has not a stone on which he can rest his head. — I cannot forget Peter up on the hill who said the day before he died, "It is nothing."

The tired man stretches out his feeble hand saying, "God, may I get that which was not in my life, grace. I am thankful for the life Thou gave me. It was great and so full of wonderment, but I understand now that when man started out on the road of self-exertion he moved away from the grace of Eden. I need now nothing else and if Thou will give it to me I crave nothing more. With the entrance of the grace of God death loses its power to sting the body, the soul and the spirit. No longer man can be disgraced."

Aage Møller.

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## God So Loved That He Gave

There are those living among us today whose ability to enjoy their Christmas festival will be somewhat disturbed by the consciousness of millions of people the world over finding themselves in deep distress. I am not pitying this particular situation. Now is the time when the Santa Claus farce and myth should be exposed as the piece of self-deception it is.—We need to celebrate Christmas with thanksgiving and praise to God for His gracious gift of His Son to a lost world, a gift out of His great love.

He did not send a bewhiskered substitute from out of nowhere to give gifts, often useless or of no consequence to those who have no need for them. He gave out of His love for a World in distress, suffering and sin, that it might be restored to living in righteousness and brotherliness. His concern was not for His own people, the Jews only, but for the World, all His children. He did not specify that they should be worthy of help, without guilt of any wrongdoing in the past; there were no qualifications, only willingness to receive.

So Christ, His Son, was born and went forth to practice the self-same love and giving, as His Father had shown. He looked for those who were in the greatest need, physically and spiritually. They found in Him a source of divine help and healing for soul, mind and body.

Today, the people of all churches in America are engaged in this sort of loving and giving to those in greatest need, in a world whose wounds are still bleeding from a war of greater destructive force than any other war known to the annals of men.

We, the people confessing to God's loving and giving, are not playing Santa Claus to our brethren in deepest distress. We can, perhaps, afford some such nonsense here at home, kidding our own, but to our brothers in the world there is only one kind of loving and giving: the Christ-like kind. To those, who cannot see us, know us, thank us, honor us, and thus satisfy our selfish vanity, we must be messengers on the part of Christ, or His loving and giving will never be known to our brothers.

Let us give, give not merely to our own blood relatives or national or racial kindred nor to our brothers in the same faith. It is well to know that the gifts that Lutheran World Action, Lutheran World Relief and Church World Service collects and sends abroad are distributed on the basis of greatest need only. I am happy about this. Read Matthew 5,46-48 and rejoice that not only Protestants but also Catholics practice this today. Let us rejoice and support the Friendship trains, and the above named collecting agencies. It would seem to me, that as we are thus found worthy Stewards of the unrighteous mammon in our possession we may by the grace of God be

entrusted with the true riches—and celebrate Christmas, not in selfish isolation, but in world-wide fellowship.

Are we in the Danish Lutheran Church going to cancel ourselves out of this great Christian endeavor? As of December 1, we are still \$10,000 from the goal of \$56,463.62 which was assigned us for the two-year period 1946-47. I know that many among us have given generously to Danish War Relief, to relatives and friends of our background and faith. But are we going to deny our share in God's loving and giving to those in the greatest need in the world today? Are we living in splendid, but selfish isolation or are we undivided in our united action with the Christians of the world?

We have the means. If necessary let the strong give more and the weak less than the share assigned, but let us all be sharing in the effort seriously.

Let us work, while it is yet day, the night comes when no man can work.

There are twenty-five of our congregations that have reached or exceeded their quotas. Many will do so before Christmas. May I ask that all of our congregations send in whatever sums are in the possession of their treasurers for Lutheran World Action, to Olaf Juhl, our synodical treasurer before January 4th, 1948. (The date has been extended, as you will note).

I have chosen to make the above my Christmas greeting to the Danish Lutheran Church this year. It is my belief, that the greater the gift, the lighter the heart. We will enjoy Christmas as we share in carrying the burden of grief and suffering. The angels' song was of gratitude to God that He had involved Himself in the woes of the World. Are we involved in His behalf?

"But whoso hath the world's goods, and beholdeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how doth the love of God abide in Him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither with tongue, but in deed and truth." (1 John 3, 17—18).

May God richly bless our homes, our friends, our congregations, our brothers the world over, with His mercies, this Christmas of 1947.

Happy Christmas.

Alfred Jensen.





## Christmas

Cheerful sounds are winging  
Through the wintry air,  
Sounds of church bells ringing  
Come from everywhere.

'Tis the bells of Christmas  
Telling all the earth  
The triumphant tidings  
Of our Savior's birth.

Songs of great rejoicing  
Flow from far and near,  
Sounds of Thousands voicing  
Hymns of praise and cheer.

'Tis the angels praising  
God in heaven above  
For the birth of Jesus,  
Bearer of His love.

And on land and ocean  
Countless tribes and tongues  
Join with rapt emotion  
In the angel's song.

'Tis the song of Christmas  
Rising to the sky  
From the heart of millions,  
Praising God on high.

Oh, my Lord and Savior,  
Grant this Christmas night,  
When men's vile behavior  
Often shrouds Thy light,

That thy blessed message  
Unto sinful men,  
May imbue our spirit,  
Bringing peace again.

J. C. Aaberg

## Christmas Joy

Christmas stands for the most of us as the happiest season of the year. Around it cluster many of our fondest memories. We remember the unalloyed happiness with which we as children looked forward to its coming, the long days of preparation, the impatient waiting before the hour at last came when we could gather around the festive table, the hymn singing, the reading of the Gospel, the lighting of the Christmas tree, the opening of our Christmas gifts, and the happy faces of father and mother, of sisters and brothers, all beaming with kindness and good will.

From later years we recall best, perhaps, the more serious part of the festival, the solemn chiming of the bells, the festive church service, the happy Christmas gatherings, Christmas trees and other events of mingled seriousness and joy. Best of all some of us will remember the happy days when our own children were big enough to rejoice with us and we could, as it were, relive our own childhood joys in theirs.

But recalling these common experiences of happiness, one may well wonder why Christmas of all seasons exerts this happy influence upon most people. What is it that makes people kinder, better and more other worldly at Christmas than at any other time?

Many will probably answer, "Why ask? What else can it be than the great gift it brought, the divine message it proclaimed? What other cause need we for Christmas than the joy and gratitude of men for the love of God in sending us His Son?"

But alas! The world as such has never accepted the Christ of Bethlehem. Many have long ago discarded their childhood belief in the story of Christmas as a childish superstition not accepted by modern people. They continue to celebrate Christmas, but Christ has but a small, if any, part in it. They just celebrate.

There is something which makes them feel more kindly, more thoughtful, more generous toward others than at any other time, but they never ask what it is that causes this softening of the frequently so hard heart of men.

"Lo, I bring you tidings of a great joy which shall be for all the people," said the angel. All the people! And may it not be that God has willed to come so near to all the people at Christmas, even those who think little of Him, that all must feel His presence, that all must know, if they are not completely hardened, that God has been near to them, and that He brings joy and happiness with Him. For what else can explain this change in men's spirit, this universal kindness and happiness at Christmas, than the very presence of God, even though men but dimly recognize His nearness?

But if even the dimly recognized nearness of God can so influence the spirit of man, how much more will His presence not do when we really open our heart to Him, accept His message with grateful and believing hearts, and truly let the dear Christ enter in? For then we shall know that Christmas and its happiness is more than a passing sentiment, that it is not at all like the Christmas wreaths with which we adorn our homes and churches for a few days only to throw them away when the season is over, but that is a gift of God's redeeming and everlasting love, which He intended should be ours, not for a few days, but forever. With the best wishes for all the happiness of the season, but above all for that which God gives.

J. C. Aaberg.





# Our Women's Work

## Christmas Greetings

The time to send Christmas greetings has again rolled around and I take this opportunity to wish all you readers of our "Page" a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May we come to appreciate more and more what a splendid heritage we have received, and may God give us courage and strength to carry on the good work of our church.

Thanks to all of you who have so willingly given me material for "Our Women's Work"—you don't know how much I appreciate always having enough GOOD contributions to fill the page—even to overflowing.

Thanks also to Rev. and Mrs. Holger Strandskov for kind cooperation.

Your editor,

Johanne B. Lillehoj.

## Brush, Colo.

On Oct. 18, 1947, our Mission Study Group had its annual "silver tea" at the parsonage.

The program was given at the church. Mrs. J. J. Lerager gave an interesting talk concerning their recent trip, stressing the work done by the W.M.S. years ago in regard to helping small congregations.

At the close of her talk, she told about a visit to a colony of Hutterites in South Dakota. They have existed as a group since the 16th century. Like the early Christians these people have "all things in common."

Although extremely modest in their personal demands, the faith of the Hutterites is so strong, that no sacrifice is too great, not even life itself, to defend what they believe to be truth and righteousness.

They now use modern machinery but their social customs, mode of living and style of dress are almost identical with those used in Central Europe during Reformation times.

Mrs. Geo. White gave a report on W.M.S. from the District meeting in Nysted, Nebr.

At the parsonage our president, Mrs. Otto Christensen, presided at the lovely tea table graced with yellow and white chrysanthemums and angel candles.

Twenty-five dollars was sent to the general fund of the W.M.S.

Esther Larson, Sec.-Treas.

## Home Mission Conference

Toledo, Ohio, Sept. 8, 9, 10

It was my privilege to attend a three day meeting of the Lutheran Home Mission Conference, convened by the Division of American Missions of the National

Lutheran Council, in Toledo, Ohio, September 8, 9, 10. There were approximately ninety in attendance, mostly pastors, representing eight Lutheran bodies. It was an inspiration to me to listen to the various addresses, and an eye-opening experience, a challenge, which will remain with me a long time.

The central theme of the meeting was "The Open Door in American Missions." It was made clear to us through the addresses, charts, films, literature, etc., that the door is open for the Lutheran church in America, if we are mission-minded enough to see and accept the challenge. We were, however, also reminded that the open door of opportunities and service cannot be seen until the hearts of believers are opened.

There are several factors which seem to spur mission activity at present. One of the factors is the fluid state of society. People moved about a great deal during the war and the movement has not stopped yet. New communities mushroomed into existence. When the local churches could take care of the new residents, they did so, but in many instances the National Lutheran Council, among other bodies, sent workers into these new areas and established Sunday schools and in many instances started a mission church. In 1946, 37 such areas were helped. It was thought that at the conclusion of the war, these industrial towns would disband, but the conversion of industries and the housing shortage combined to make these boom towns remain. Thus, this gathering of people from many backgrounds becomes a mission opportunity for the Lutheran church to permanently establish itself. There are for example, at present more new Lutheran mission stations in the Los Angeles area than all other Protestant churches combined. But what of the churches in areas where people moved away? Some closed their doors, some are desperately hanging on, while others are beginning to realize that there are unexplored potentialities which pastor and lay people alike must study and act upon. As long as there are 70,000,000 unchurched people in the United States, 40,000,000 of these in rural areas, there would seem to be enough to do.

Originally the Lutheran church was a foreign church, a church for the immigrant. It is comparatively recent that it has changed its approach, and the adjustment has not been easy nor is it complete. This changed approach was evident when eight Lutheran bodies joined together in the National Lutheran Council, which greatly expanded facilities especially for surveys. In our own synod, we have become increasingly aware of the changed approach at our synodical conventions, in the expansion of the facilities at Grand View College, especially the addition of the Church Workers Course, and furthermore, you will remember, that it was decided last June in Racine to raise a \$50,000.00 fund for the Church Extension Fund. At the W.M.S. District III meeting, it was suggested, that when we are through with our dormitory fund, that



then we women raise a certain quota of the Church Extension Fund. Do you realize that just \$1.00 from each Ladies' Aid member of our synod would be the equivalent of \$4,000 for this fund.

The clash between various religious ideologies and political ideologies is another factor which is stimulating mission activity at present. World War II did much to clarify thinking on this point. We used to hear: "What difference does it make what you believe, if you are honest?" We know now that it makes a tremendous difference what man believes. The fanatical followers of totalitarianism and emperor worship convinced many, who were used to moving and living in a democracy undergirded by Christianity, that evangelism on a much larger scale and in a more effective way must be practised, so that the worth of every human being may be recognized and established.

The sudden transition from an industrial age to an atomic age is also a factor urging us to mission endeavor. We need to project a program commensurate with God's power so that we can bequeath a redemptive and creative faith to our survivors. We need to use more spiritual energy more efficiently in the service of God. The lay energy must be organized for more efficient use as parish workers, in member visitation, in witnessing for Christ, in cultivating the field, and in assimilating the new members into the Christian fellowship.

It was quite evident at this meeting, that new techniques were being developed, that trained skill would be needed and a high level of intelligence. There was considerable talk of pooling resources and man-power; but, as one gentleman put it: "Pooled mediocrity is no solution." Furthermore, while organization is essential, without a Christian personality, it becomes mere puttering.

We were also challenged by the following thought: "Are we willing to a mission effort among negroes, Latin-Americans and Jews, except upon a segregation basis?" Or are we still more nationalistic than Christian? Does this epitaph reflect our views?—"Here lies a black man who fought the yellow man to make the world safe for the white man."

What can we do, we women of the Danish Ev. Luth. Church? Some of us can study, some can listen, some can pray. Might it be possible for those women who have contributed towards the furnishings of the new dormitory at Grand View, to so pray for the girls residing there, that they might be visibly affected by these prayers? Furthermore our very attitude towards the Church and its services, towards the Bible, towards the family altar, towards our friends and neighbors, towards the poor and needy, is a silent witness that perhaps does more to mould and influence the children and youth associating with us than any other factor.

"Let us build for forever."

**Marietta Strandkov.**

## Council Of Elementary Religious Education

Your synod's Council of Elementary Religious Education met in Des Moines November 20th and 21st to organize and to consider the scope of its work, and ways and means of proceeding.

All members were present: Rev. A. E. Farstrup, Rev. Edwin E. Hansen, Rev. Howard Christensen, Rev. Peter Thomsen and Mrs. Aksel Holst. Rev. Farstrup presided at the meeting.

One of the first items of business was the allocation of the \$300 budget voted by the last church convention for the work of this council. Then a general set of rules, to serve as a guide in the work, was agreed upon and recorded in the minutes as "Duties of the Council." These are as follows:

1. To study, evaluate and recommend materials for Sunday School and vacation school work.
2. To study, evaluate and recommend materials for confirmation class work.
3. To study and gather information relative to visual and audio-visual education in church school work.
4. To consider the possibility and feasibility of publication of necessary materials, including Sunday school papers.
5. To consider ways and means of giving concrete help in a teacher-training program.
6. To secure and display useful materials at conventions and district meetings.
7. To represent the synod in its relationship to interdenominational religious education.
8. To serve as a clearing house for ideas and as a source to which local church workers may turn for help.

Each committee member was assigned a particular phase of the council's work upon which to concentrate until the next meeting.

Soon after the New Year the first of a series of articles, designed for help to local church school workers, will appear in "Lutheran Tidings."

Examination and evaluation of vacation bible school material was begun, but time did not permit a thorough and complete study. This work will continue outside of committee, and recommendations will be forthcoming in time for the 1948 summer session.

After ten hours of concentrated work the council adjourned to meet again (if the budget allows) in the spring of 1948.

**Mrs. Aksel B. Holst,**

Secretary of the Council of Elementary Religious Education.

## My Greeting

A sincere "Thank You" and Christmas greetings to all our faithful friends, near and far, who responded so generously to the special project of the—D.K.M.—Women's Mission Society in furnishing our new girl's dormitory at Grand View College. From all reports it is a success, but let us keep up the good work. And later after we have finished the furnishing of the girl's dormitory, we should do something for the boy's rooms, so they will not feel slighted. We are definitely interested in all our young folks.

Again thanking you all, and wishing you a very Joyous Christmas season, and a very Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

**Mary Seeley Knudstrup.**



## Square Heads on A Round Trip

By Ellen Nielsen

### VIII

With which aside I continue on our journey.

We got to Karla's apartment in Copenhagen about four in the morning. A friend had prepared a meal (breakfast? supper?) but what we ate I don't know; I couldn't remember if we were on the ocean, in Sweden or Denmark. The hardest work in the world had commenced: we were traveling.

It was quite light when we tumbled into bed. We shut our eyes but didn't sleep. I kept saying to myself **you are in Denmark now**, but the words had no significance, I was so numb with fatigue that I felt nothing but my fatigue. After a couple of hours we got up again. My mind felt like a sieve through which impressions poured; nothing was retained.

We got the rest of the luggage through the customs. I had my hair washed (they did it all wrong) with the girl asking all sorts of questions about America which someone far away answered in a voice that squeaked with exhaustion (it couldn't have been me, the answers were too stupid) and on all our various errands Karla said, "This is the Hotel L'Angleterre, this is Kongens Nytorv, there is Tivoli, you take No. 7 street-car, this is Strøjet, etc., etc." I looked and commented dutifully (I'm really in Denmark now) and felt like one of those tin toys you wind up with a key (but you have to keep winding them or they run down and stop dead), in short I felt nothing, I turned my head when she pointed, I made the right responses (the traveler is a well-trained beast) but I might as well have been in Hong Kong; I still hadn't come home to my father's and mother's country.

In the evening people came in to see us, people I'd come to know through letters and had been eager to meet, but no contact was made, we were two nations staring at each other. Out of the phantasmagoria of that first day in Denmark I remember only two things: Kapt. Tom Christiansen unfastening his socks and letting them flop over his shoes, saying, "Nu er jeg ogsaa Amerikaner." And sitting up on the balcony having our coffee that night (only night doesn't start until almost midnight when a sort of lilac dusk as fragile and soft as chiffon drifts over the sky) Karla said, when lights pricked the far horizon where sea and sky met, "That's Sweden. It was wonderful seeing the lights there during the war."

Next morning friends took us to the train, bought our tickets, found the right coach for us and settled us in. We were now on our own. Now Denmark will begin, I thought. For you cannot be helped to countries, you must find them the hard way, **by yourself**, without prompting and interpretation. (Friends and relatives are all very well but they are a screen between you and the new country, as long as you are

dependent on them you are suspended in a country that is neither here nor there, as useless and unseaworthy as a ship in dry-dock. It is the great grief of my life that we got started wrong in Denmark).

The scene at the Copenhagen station was beyond words. Surely the city was being evacuated! Especially of its children. Whole battalions of them invaded the coaches, parents brought them by twos and threes, set them down on the seats and said, "Be a good boy and/or girl now and hils tante Trina . . ." A friendly lady sitting next to us said placidly, "They are vacation children." She said, "This is vacation time" when people laden with packages like pack mules tore down the aisles, grabbed seats, were ousted by others in possession, backed up, bumped down the aisles, trod on us, were trodden upon, stood in the vestibules (these were the "refugees" I had seen hanging out of the train windows). "It's July you know," said the lady peacefully, "vacation time." I am certain that at the stroke of midnight, June 30, the entire population of Denmark gets up (like that scrambled game we call GOING TO JERUSALEM) and changes place: The city people all go out to the country and the country people to the city. The result is chaos. The result is a nightmare, madness.

It is like looking at virulent germs under a microscope.

The Dane is not at his best *en masse*. He wears shorts and carries a "madpose" and wants to be where he isn't. He is determined to get there even if it is over your dead body. People in America leaving a football stadium or Madison Square Gardens are as placid as cows coming home from pasture compared to Danes hell-bent for vacation. But of course coming or going Americans are organized, conditioned for efficiency. It's a risky business being a tourist in Denmark in July. **Det er livsfarligt.**

Finally the last Dane was squeezed into the last vestibule and the long train pulled out. Ah, I thought, peace, its wonderful, now we can all just sit quietly, nothing more can happen, no more Danes can get on and maybe some will get off. Not so. Immediately every Dane in every coach wanted to sit somewhere else. I was black and blue from being climbed on and over. Windows were pushed up or closed. And the train wasn't out of the shed before a curious thing happened. Every Dane on board opened his "madpose." It was eight o'clock in the morning. Hadn't they had breakfast? Apparently not for they were famished. How they did eat! They chewed right through whole shoe-boxes full of sandwiches (nothing to drink with it) and at each station stop they hung out of windows and bought ice cream "pinde" or "waffle-is." If there was a five minute stop at a station people leaped out of the coaches into a "kiosk" and ate some more and then came back and crawled all over us again. I was black and blue from Danes.

A lovely little Danish girl sat on her father's knee across the aisle from us. He bought her a cone and held it for her while she licked her way through it; he was tender and loving and held it just right for her to lick it kitten-wise. After a while her mouth was ringed white like a calf's that had been in a pail



of milk. When her hair ribbon came undone her father tied it with stiff, clumsy fingers. The little scene was comforting and somehow very Danish.

The relationship over there, of parent to child, seems to me to have more repose in it, less of our fantastic experiments with child raising. Over there one did not so often have the feeling that the child was a stick of dynamite or a piece of rare china, the child stayed in its own province and was a child (and content to be in its own mysterious background and element), adults could actually carry on a conversation without being interrupted by little junior.

In another section (we sit three or four in a row with knees touching) a little girl was traveling with a deaconess (those lovely old ladies with faces round and red as apples, with long blue and white comfortable voluminous dresses and dear little white bonnets which tied under the chin in a crisp white bow) and clutched a small bag of precious candy in her hand. Now the moment had come to take a piece of it. But it must first be passed around. Surely the strange lady sitting in the same section would not avail herself of this sacrificial generosity? But she does. A Dane never passes up **anything** to eat. She murmured weakly that she shouldn't, she even said, "De har jo ikke saa meget af det" but she stuck her fat finger down in the bag and took a piece. I hated her exuberantly healthy face with the rich juicy blood running just under the surface of the skin, and the gleam in her shiny eyes as she sucked away at the candy. When the children in that section had each taken a piece the bag looked punctured and I had a moment of panic . . . But there was one piece left for the little girl. I vowed never again to travel without a bag of candy in my purse . . . forgetting that in Denmark there is seldom candy to be bought.

## A Christmas Nightmare

By Catherine Anderson.

When I awoke Christmas morning I was shouting "No! No!" and it took me some time to get my bearings and realize that I was safe in my own bed, alive and well instead of standing before St. Peter at the Gates of Paradise. It was all a dream, but how very realistic.

I had approached the good saint with every confidence that he would open the gates and usher me into the Realm of the Blessed with perhaps a fanfare of heraldic trumpets. Had I not grown up in the church and observed the letter of the law from my youth up! And did I not therefore deserve a place in Paradise! But there seemed to be a hitch. St. Peter looked dubious and I tried hard to think of sins I might have committed and for which I had neglected to ask forgiveness. I could think of none, and I was slightly hurt at his hesitation.

St. Peter was pulling at his beard, a puzzled frown on his face. "Can you tell me of some of your good deeds?" he asked.

"Why, yes—of course," I stammered, thinking of all the clothing I had contributed to the clothing drives for the relief of the destitutes in the war-ravaged

countries. "I gave a lot of clothing for the people in Europe," I said. "There was the good black cloth coat with the fur collar—"

He raised a finger in warning. "Yes, it was a good garment, but you made it next to worthless by cutting off the buttons before you turned it in."

I gulped. Those had been beautiful buttons and I wanted to use them again. But I had neglected to replace them with others.

"And those shoes you gave," continued St. Peter. "They were good shoes, scarcely worn in fact. But you'd left them lying about in the attic until they were covered with dust and had cobwebs inside them. Did you find shoe polish so expensive you could not afford to shine the shoes so that the poor recipient would have had her eyes light up with gladness? Did you find shoe laces so far beyond your means that you had to send Junior's cast-off shoes with laces knotted and worthless?"

"No," I confessed with shame. "Shoe polish is only ten cents a bottle and shoe lace five cents a pair, but I was rushed for time. So many things to do, you know."

St. Peter shook his head. "So many things to do," he echoed. "Bridge, tennis, movies, theatre, golf, the beach — — " He looked very sad and I was afraid he was going to cry. "It takes perhaps ten minutes to wash a sweater, three minutes to sew up a rip in a garment, fifteen minutes to darn a pair of stockings, a few minutes to press a garment. Yet you could not spare time from your pleasures to send clean, repaired clothing to those who are destitute not only of clothing, but of the means with which to make repairs. Some people in Europe wonder if Americans are as dirty as some of their cast off clothing indicates. I suppose you'd like to wear the soiled garments of some European?"

It was at this point that I began shouting "No! No!" It made my flesh creep to think of putting on some one else's soiled clothing. I awoke covered with perspiration, conscious of many sins of omission. I could not get back to sleep. That is why I was up so early that the family was startled.

"What's got into you?" asked Bill as he turned over for another snooze before the alarm was due to go off.

"I forgot something," I replied.

In the garage on the work bench was a large carton waiting to be taken to Relief Headquarters. Frantically I pawed over the contents. Juniors shoes were perfectly good but they did need polishing and a pair of new laces. The cotton dress that had shrunk and was too small for me needed a sleeve sewed back in place and it should have been ironed instead of sent rough-dry. I checked for missing buttons and laid aside every garment that needed mending. Certainly St. Peter nor the people handling relief goods were going to have further chance to think of me as a person devoid of ordinary courtesy. The Golden Rule and the gifts of the Wise Men assumed new importance as I tried to put myself in the place of those unfortunates to whom our discarded clothing goes.

From "THE CHURCHMAN."



## Santal Holiday Customs

India as a whole is not by any means a Christian land and one of the first things a missionary notices is that the great Christian holidays which mean so much to him mean little or nothing to the great masses of people surrounding him. So at Christmas time when we are without the festive atmosphere of the Christian West, we are very grateful for those holiday customs which have sprung up among Christian Santals. Added to the beautiful poinsettias in the garden and the occasional candle in the house, these customs help fill the heart with Christmas spirit even without the snow and evergreens and colored lights of home. We are too new in the country to tell about all of them, but you may enjoy hearing about those we have seen.

Church services naturally form a central part of the festive customs. On Christmas Eve the candle- and torch-lit church is beautifully decorated with green branches and festooned paper of many colors (not just the red and green we use). As the great bell rings, Santals gather from every direction, the women clad in their nicest fancy bordered sarees and the men in their clean, white dhoties. The singing is richer than usual and they usually sing well, melodies both foreign and native to their soil, the words all recounting the story of the birth of One who has blessed the Santals much. The contrast between the eager faces at a Santal Christmas service and the dull, lifeless stare of the heathen in their village dances is profound. Christmas Day services are well attended and then there are naturally more children present, as many do not like to take their children out at night in this country.

In the homes some decorating is done. During the preceding months the mud walls and floors of their houses have been refinished smoothly in their native way. Special Christmas greetings may then be painted on the walls, either outside or inside, for friends to see. The colors are mostly from natural dyes and juices. Branches or flowers complete the decorating. Special food for the festival days centers mostly around the newly harvested rice, but also some sweets and good things for the eager children are provided, despite the fact that food is generally not emphasized as much here as at home. **Kajuri**, a sort of puffed rice which the children eat like popcorn, is a favorite all around.

Gifts are exchanged at Christmas time just as in the West. Many a new and pretty saree in this country is a Christmas present. Last year one neighbor boy came with a nice bunch of bananas on a plate as a gift from their house to ours. Rich sweets of the Bengali type are sometimes given in this way as a special treat.

Carol singing from house to house was done beautifully here at Benagaria last Christmas by a Bengali family, the same family that used their varied talents to put on a Christmas pageant for the little Bengali church in the community. The Santals, however, are more inclined to go about singing on New Years Day,

which seems to them in many ways a more festive day than Christmas. Equipped with a native violin or two, some flutes and perhaps a hand-me-down accordion, a group of Christian Santals will start out well before dawn on New Year's Day and sing their way through village after village. The songs have words appropriate to the season and the melodies are the unmistakable Santal tunes they love so much. To our ears they sound a bit sad, especially with the repeated monotone on the last three or four notes of each line, but the Santals do not seem sad when they sing them. Singing plays a large part in the big New Year's gathering of Santal Christians at Grahampur in Assam, one of the greatest events of the year in our whole Santal Mission.

The greatest thing of all, of course, is the fact that Santals have any Christmas at all. It is because a number of the Santals now have **Christ**, the heart and soul of Christmas in any land, that they can celebrate this happy season. As more and more of their fellow-Santals and fellow-Indians come to know Christ, His birthday will become a more and more joyful time.

**Kristofer and Bertha Hagen.**

Benagaria, Nov. 8, 1947.

## Contributions To Women's Mission Society

### GENERAL

Previously acknowledged \$512.77.

Mrs. Johannes Olsen, Tyler, Minn., \$1.00; Mrs. Victor Jensen, Tyler, Minn., 50c; In memory of Mrs. Caroline Jorgensen, Mrs. Johannes Thomsen, Marie and Anna Rasmussen, Mr. and Mrs. Jens West, Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Muller, Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Rasmussen and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lillehoj, all of Kimballton, Iowa, \$6.00; Joint Mission Meeting, Waterloo, Cedar Falls and Fredsville, Iowa, Women (earmarked Santal) \$95.15; W. M. S. Group, Brush, Colo., \$35.00; W. M. S. Collection Dist. 4 Meeting, \$110.91 (\$90.91 earmarked Santal in memory of Mrs. Caroline Jorgensen and \$20.00 Rev. K. Tromborg); Ladies' Aid, Lake Benton, Minn., \$15.00; Joint Mission Meeting, Ladies' Aid and Study Group, Cedar Falls, Iowa, \$38.43; Mrs. J. P. Christensen, Cedar Falls, Ia., \$2.00; Danish Ladies' Aid, Dwight, Ill., \$40.95; W. M. S. District 5 Meeting, \$21.52; Gertrude Guild, Clinton, Ia., \$10.00; Danish Ladies' Aid, Viborg, S. D., \$30.00; Danish Ladies' Aid, Askov, Minn., \$66.00; Mission Circle, Manistee, Mich., \$50.00. For pamphlets; Tyler, Minn., \$8.75; Danevang, Texas, \$1.00; Dalum, Canada and Mrs. Ada Petersen, \$4.44; District 6, by Mrs. Eilert Nielsen, \$4.00; Flaxton, N. D., by Mrs. Fred Jensen, \$1.00. Total since May 1st, \$1054.42.

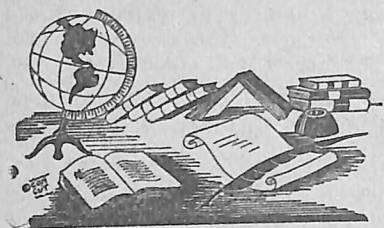
### TOWARDS ROOM FURNISHING OF NEW GVC DORMITORY

Previously acknowledged \$3,379.59.

Kronborg Ladies' Aid, Marquette, Nebr., \$50.00; East Luth. Ladies' Aid, Davey, Nebr., \$25.00; St. Peder's Guild, Minneapolis, Minn., \$25.00; Ladies' Aid, Denmark, Kans., \$10.00; Ladies' Aid, Diamond Lake, Minn., \$10.00; W. M. S. Collection, Dist. 2 Women, \$15.40; W. M. S. Group, Juhl-Germania, Mich., \$100.00; Joint Mission Meeting and Sale of Cook Books, Minneapolis, Minn., \$26.33; Ladies' Aid and Study Group, Cedar Falls, Ia., \$200.00. Total to date \$3,841.32. Sent to Dr. J. Knudsen, \$25.00 from Ladies' Aid, Waterloo, Iowa. Sent direct to Mr. Oluf Juhl, \$1,110.59. Complete total \$4,976.91.

Acknowledged with sincere thanks,  
**Mrs. C. B. Jensen,**  
1604 Washington St.,  
Cedar Falls, Iowa





## Across the Editor's Desk

A Merry, Merry Christmas to all our readers. We should like to have this greeting contain everything that those and other word greetings have expressed, from the day of the first Christmas greeting, as it came with the song of the Heavenly Host: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

This greeting comes to us again in this year of grace, 1947. It is the constant greeting of heaven to earth each Christmas in spite of strife, discord and confusion. And as the message of Peace, Joy and Love finds a manger in the hearts of men, it immediately creates such Peace, Joy and Love in the hearts of the individual. Therefore the Christmas season has developed in all parts of the world the spirit of sharing and giving as at no other time of the year.

Thus the ultimate goal for the true Christmas greeting is to carry the spirit of the angelic song, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men" into every phase of our life. And it is for each of us to do something about—something which will please and honor God—something by which all men will be brought a little closer into the full fellowship with God as our Father.

Therefore it is only natural that the president of our synod has brought into his Christmas message to all our people the crying need of the war-scarred people of our present day world. And that which probably is even more tragic, the apparent callousness of some of our people toward this cry for help. Nearly every day your editor receives in letters, in church periodicals, etc., statements as to the actual conditions in the world at large. Only yesterday we received a Lutheran paper which has the following article written by one of the leaders of our Lutheran Church in America; he is president of one of the large Lutheran synods, and has been in Europe during this past year visiting several of the countries there in the service of Lutheran World Action. He writes the following story:

**There Is Need In Europe**—Let us not be misled by the strange statements of some Americans who visited Europe this past summer. They say that Europeans are well fed and do not need American help.

It is quite evident that these men speak out of only a partial knowledge of the real situation. For the testimony of men who have actually seen how the poor people of central Europe live is unanimous in stating that the food and fuel situation is serious. Official surveys also indicate clearly that there is a great shortage of food and fuel which, unless speedy and effective relief measures are realized, will make

this winter more disastrous than any that has preceded.

We were also in Europe last summer. The economic situation in the war-ravaged countries is deplorable. A feeling of hopelessness prevails. Order has not been brought out of chaos. Industrial and rural life has not been implemented. Political life is filled with restlessness. The fear of more war and bloodshed is very real. Drouth has caused a general crop failure. There are still fourteen million displaced persons in Europe and twenty-five million more that are homeless.

In the American zone of Germany the daily rationing is only 1,500 calories. In all of Germany seventy million people are dependent on food sources that will feed only forty million. Unless help comes, twenty-five to thirty million must die in the near future.

Bishop Otto Dibelius, the Lutheran bishop of Berlin, is authority for the statement that last year 24,000 babies were born in Berlin, but 105,000 died. That is typical of the ratio of births to deaths in other cities too. The cause, undernourishment and exposure. The result, the gradual extinction of a race. Is that what we want?

The answer of American Lutherans to the European cry of distress has been heartening. We have proportionately done more than any other group. Lutheran World Action has been effective, both from a humanitarian and spiritual point of view.

Bolshevism, the greatest present threat to our western and Christian civilization, thrives on famine and want. It breeds prolifically in political unrest and despair. Christian love and benevolence are the mightiest weapons with which to fight all the anti-Christian forces. To discontinue help to the stricken and suffering millions in Europe is to give aid and comfort to the enemy.

Our Christian duty is clear in the face of Europe's actual need!

Let us say it in the name of Him who gave all He had even unto death on the cross because of His love for man: We as individual Christians, as congregations, or as a synod will open our hearts to the Christmas message to such an extent that we also do our part **and more** in meeting the cry of need from brothers in Europe dying while we live in luxury.—Let us be a goodly number that **during the Christmas week give an extra contribution to Lutheran World Action**. Give it to your congregational treasurer or send it to Oluf R. Juhl, synodical treasurer, before January 1.







**OUT OF THE LABYRINTH**, by Leo H. Lehmann, Agora Publishing Co., 120 Liberty St., New York 6, N. Y. \$3.00.

The author is a former Roman Catholic Priest, now a vigorous protestant (he has recently spoken in numerous Lutheran churches in North Dakota and Minnesota) he is editor of The Converted Catholic Magazine, and director of Christ's Mission New York City.

Personally I have been very sceptical of these former Roman Catholics, I have been afraid that their work was motivated by Bigotry and an unfounded spirit of dislike, but I have become convinced that a good work is being done by Rev. Lehmann and his several associates. The Converted Catholic Magazine has become a necessity for anyone with some passion for truth and historic interest, and we need in these times of Roman Catholic aggression, and its inherent implications of Fascism in various forms, to be informed of what goes on under the barrage of constant pleas for tolerance.

In the above named book there is an exposure of some of the false Roman Catholic teachings and their bombastic display, how the author discovered it and came out of the Labyrinth of confused and insidious teachings. He is hoping to convert Monsignor Fulton Sheen, the present American clever radio voice for Roman Catholicism.

I don't always agree with Lehmann's expressions but I must admit that here is a book that would be of inestimable help for those poorly informed Protestants who protest more against the Christian Religion itself by their indifference than against the false representations of it.

The way to combat Roman Catholicism is not by a blind dislike but by a constant living study of what Christianity is and was from its beginning.

L. C. Bundgaard.

**THE NEW EVERY CHILD GOLDEN WONDER LIBRARY—**By the Editor of My Weekly Reader; Published by Charles E. Merrill Co. Inc., 400 South Front Street, Columbus 15, Ohio. Price \$3.00

This set of books for children consists of My Weekly Reader Parade, 120 pages, profusely illustrated, in full color, stories and facts about adventure, nature, unusual lands, etc.; it contains 14 nature stories, 18 science articles, 10 aviation adventures, 16 holiday activities and games and 19 travel stories. — The library set also contains 10 Little Wonder Books: Inventions, Our Land of Machines, Pioneer Life, Switzerland, Pioneering in Aviation are some of the titles. No effort has been spared to make these books beautiful and attractive to every child. Each Library comes in a Christmas Box, and may be ordered from the publisher on an unconditional Money-back guarantee. —H. S.

**GOD'S FRIENDLY WORLD** by Esther Williams Martin. Published by The Warner Press, Anderson, Indiana. 38 pages, size 6½x10 inches. Price 75 cts.

This is a book of Poems and Pictures for the beginner and early primary age child. In a most fascinating way the author helps the child page by page to explore on wings of poem and pen pictures the child wonder-world of nature and God. Living things, small and unnoticed by most of us, parade in real and vivid manner before the child's mind as the author in her skillful, accomplished manner talks of God, His love and His exciting world which is so full of adventure for boys and girls. The book comes in a colorful plastic ring binder of heavy board cover. —H. S.

**OUR LITTLE CHILD FACES LIFE—**by Mary Clemens Odell. Published by Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, Nashville 2, Tenn. 64 pages; Price 50 cts.

Here is a book which in a most simple way can be a help to every parent in that constant problem: How to help the

child from its early infancy to face the many phases of life as they appear for the child one by one. The material comes from a mother's experience. Some of the chapters are: "Stories of Jesus," "Prayers," "Where Did I Come From," etc.

**CHILD'S CHRISTMAS CHIMES—**Edited by Joseph M. Girtz. Published by Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr.. Price 25 cts.; \$2.50 a dozen.

The editor has done a fine job in selecting a good variety of Christmas stories told to children by men and women who have children, or who once were children themselves. Every story has one or more well-adapted illustrations which are well done. The cover design and the original drawings throughout the book are by Irving Sorensen.—We gladly recommend the Child's Christmas Chimes to every home. —H. S.

**YULE**, our own Christmas magazine, published by our young people, came to the editor's desk the day after we sent our material to the December 5th issue to the printers. It is the finest edition so far both in quality of reading material and in its make-up. The editor, Rev. Harris Jespersen, has done a fine job. The cover of imitation knotty pine and an attractive Christmas design in red and blue is most pleasing and immediately suggests: **Julefest**. The cover is designed by Mrs. Hisey, a member of Trinity Church, Chicago.

Due to the delay in the printing of YULE it is natural that our business manager, Rev. Harold Petersen, is quite concerned about the sale of our magazine. We definitely believe that our various youth groups can easily go out and sell 25 copies more in every one of our communities than was sold last year. The magazine is of such a nature that it will appeal to everyone, whether they have any connection with our church or not. We believe that the magazine would sell well in many a store in our various towns if laid there for sale. Let us give our editor and business manager of YULE our appreciation of their fine efforts by selling every copy they have had printed. —H. S.

#### THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONGREGATION

Most people have a pretty good idea or think they have of what the responsibility of their pastor is. I am not so sure they always realize so clearly their own.

In a certain city a new family moved to town. As months went by this family became very good friends of the pastor. One day while the pastor was visiting in the home of the family the conversation turned to churches. The pastor asked, "How come you people never joined our church—you have a lot in common with us?" To this question the man of the house answered, "We did visit your church but I guess we struck some bad Sundays and got the wrong impression. There were few people in the church, the choir with a small dozen members looked and sounded pretty weak, few young people and children—We went away feeling like your congregation was pretty sick." As the pastor left he knew pretty well what his friends' first impression had been. For trivial reasons his people had neglected the house of the Lord. Also had they lost the opportunity of having in their fellowship one of the finest Christian families he had ever met.

On the way home the minister pondered with a heavy heart over his own and his congregation's neglect—and responsibility. (H. O. N. in The Messenger, Cedar Falls, Ia.)





## Grand View College And Our Youth

### Christmas Greeting

From Grand View College, its students, faculty and personnel I wish to send to all the homes of the Danish Lutheran Church and to all our friends our best wishes for a happy and blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Johannes Knudsen.

### G. V. C. Sports And "Gymnastik"

The report from Grand View College this issue will be an article concerning the physical education set-up.

The man at the head of most of the physical education activities is Harald (Knutie) Knudsen. At the first of the year Knutie organized a fall baseball team which played several games with other Junior Colleges in the area. Right now our big sports interest at Grand View is basketball. We are a member of the Iowa Junior College conference and have a schedule of about twenty games although several of them are not conference games. Knutie had a difficult time in organizing a team from mostly new material and from boys who are from every corner of the states. After an early season loss to Marshalltown, however, the team has shown plenty of spirit, and in spite of three losses against one win the team has not been a pushover for any of their opponents. Besides the intercollegiate basketball there is an extensive program of intramural basketball just getting underway. At last reports there were six teams in the tournament with possibilities of another in the making. The games are played on Tuesday and Thursdays in the evening.

For the non-veterans and those veterans who are interested Knutie also conducts a boys gym class. This class stresses the Danish method of gymnastics with some elements of tumbling added. There are also two girls gym classes instructed by Knutie. These classes are instructed in elementary tumbling, gymnastics and rhythm and balance work.

Besides these activities there are other extra-curricular activities to take up Knuties spare time. First of all there is folk dancing which is generally held for an hour every Wednesday evening. We learn many new folk dances and practice and dance those we already happen to know. Sometimes on Friday nights we get together and play "round games." These games are both old games from Denmark and many American folk games which are similar.

All of these activities take place in our school gymnasium which although a bit small for basketball, adequately serves the purpose for the rest. There is also a recreation hall in the basement of the new girls dormitory.

The physical education program here at Grand View has a wide range which should include the interests of most students. Most of us need a little relaxation in at least one of the forms of activities mentioned, and there is a general participation in most of them.

There are many improvements on the way for Grand View. Among them the new athletic field which will enable us to have a more extensive program next year. There is the possibility that we may take up football. At any rate the new field will provide a better place to play our intramural touch football games and give us a good baseball diamond on which to practice and play our home games. There are also furnishings on the way for the recreation hall in the new dormitory which will be an advantage to the boys as well as the girls as it has been opened to the boys on specified evenings.

We here at the school certainly appreciate all improvements along that line, however the inadequacy of the old gymnasium can't help but enter my mind. It has been pointed out in a previous article that we must rent gymnasiums from the different high schools of the city because our own gym won't hold the spectators and the playing floor is too small. Sometime in the future I for one would like to see a new gymnasium added to our school.

There has not been much news in the making here at Grand View due to a lull after all the Thanksgiving parties and dinners. Most of the students went home and many students who lived too far away to get home were invited by generous friends to eat their Thanksgiving turkey, or goose, at homes not so far away. There were a lot of reports of good times and wonderful hospitality.

Activity around the school itself has been one of preparation. Preparation for the second array of six weeks tests and preparation for the Christmas holidays. The decorations are beginning to crop up here and there in both buildings. And speaking of the holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you from the students and faculty at Grand View College.

Jerry Rasmussen,  
Junction City, Ore.

### Answer To "A Reader" In Lindsay, Nebr.

Dear friend:

I have spent some uncomfortable moments since receiving your epistle in which you reprimanded me for referring to your 1910 project as a "cracker box." I assure you no disrespect was

meant. Your efforts and sacrifice at that time were greatly appreciated, but now the gym has somewhat slowly depreciated.

However, the purchase of a "Model T" Ford in that day was something of an event but have you not long ago set them aside for bigger and better models. We the "teen-agers" still use them and laughingly refer to them as "old crates"—but I assure you if our destination is of importance we use the newer models. Do we not in our church colleges have the same vision as do the Fords?

You say, now that our enrollment is around 300, it would be better if the students built a new gym as you did in 1910. If we are to compete with what other church denominations are doing, this project will need the help of you, our parents. And wouldn't it appear ironical to ask the biggest share of our students to step out of the fox-holes and build their own school buildings? I don't believe I am wrong when I say the generation older than mine have in recent years established themselves very well in a financial way. Therefore, I wonder why our leaders are so apologetic in revealing to you what is needed at GRAND VIEW to educate our youth. At Wartburg College, a few miles from my home, the American Lutheran Synod is making plans for a new \$400,000.00 gym.

Again I assure you we are grateful to you, who took it upon yourselves to build that which we have—we owe you much—but you in turn must have faith in us and give us all possible help that we may be able to carry on the work and cope with the problems that you will all too soon be passing on to us.

I repeat—WE NEED A NEW GYM.  
A "teen-ager."

### The Brightest Star

By Zelia Margaret Walters

When Christmas was once a time of wonder working, three children, who lived in the Happy Valley, were getting ready for the day. One morning they found a Christmas tree standing in the best room. It was not decorated and the children said: "How shall we make it beautiful?"

A wise grandmother lived with them and she said: "Only by keeping the Christmas spirit can you make it beautiful."

In those days the selfish and unkind needed not put a tree in their houses; they could not make it bright. Only those who knew the Christmas spirit could have sparkling trees.

So the children hastened to set the house in order. When every room was fair a star was shining on the lowest bough of the tree. Then they set to work patiently and lovingly and finished the gifts for father and mother and grandmother. When they ran to the tree a row of stars had blossomed on the lower boughs. Then they packed baskets to take to neighbors who might



not have much Christmas cheer. When they came dancing home all the middle branches were alight. "What now?" they cried, "for we want it all shining." "The birds and beasts have not had their gifts," said mother.

They got ready the crumbs and sheaves of wheat for the birds, and prepared extra tidbits for the horse and the cow and the dog and cat and they gave the food to these friends with caresses and kind words. Then they found all but the topmost bough alight with stars. By this time it was Christmas Eve, and they had to go to bed.

They arose in the dawn, and under the shining tree they sang carols and rejoiced, each over her own gifts and over those gifts of the others. No one said, "Is this all?" or "Sister's gifts are finer than mine." Each heart was full of Christmas joy and love.

Then they saw someone coming to their door. It was a boy from the great house on the hill.

"We do not want him," said the eldest child. "He is a bad boy."

"He is bringing us gifts," said the second. "We do not want them. He thinks he is better than we are."

"In the summer he treads on our flowers, breaks our sand villages and frightens our birds," said the little one. But their mother let him in.

"Oh!" he said. "Your tree is shining, but mine is dark. Nurse said it was because I had been unkind all the year. So I came to be kind to you. I've brought you gifts, for you do not get so many things as I do."

Then, because they had the Christmas spirit, they did not send him away. "We hope you will find your tree alight, and you may stay and play under the trees."

"Oh, look!" cried the children. "The star!" For on the topmost bough a great star blossomed out.

Little children, may every star on your tree, likewise mean a deed done in the name of the Christmas spirit.

### How Glad I Am Each Christmas Eve

How glad I am each Christmas Eve!  
The night of Jesus' birth;  
Then like the sun the Star shone forth,  
And angels sang on earth.

The little child in Bethlehem,  
He was a King, indeed;  
He came from His high state in heaven  
Down to a world in need.

He dwells again in heaven's realm,  
The Son of God today;  
But He knows all the little ones  
And hears them when they pray.

How glad I am each Christmas Eve!  
His praises then I sing;  
He opens then for every child  
The palace of the King.

—A Norwegian Carol

### Christmas Carol

The earth has grown old with its burden  
of care,  
But at Christmas it always is young.  
The heart of the jewel burns lustrous  
and fair,  
And its soul full of music breaks forth  
on the air,  
When the song of the angels is sung.

It is coming, Old Earth, it is coming  
tonight!  
On the snowflakes that cover thy sod.  
The feet of the Christ-child fall gentle  
and white,  
And the voice of the Christ-child tells  
out with delight,  
That mankind may be children of God.

On the sad and the lonely, the wretched  
and poor,  
The voice of the Christ-child shall fall;  
And to every blind wanderer open the  
door  
Of hope that he dared not to dream of  
before,  
With a sunshine of welcome for all.

The feet of the humblest may walk in  
the field  
Where the feet of the Holiest have trod,  
This, this is the marvel to mortals re-  
vealed  
When the silvery trumpets of Christmas  
have pealed,  
That mankind may be children of God.  
—Phillips Brooks

### OUR CHURCH

**Prof. Erling Jensen**, Ames, Iowa, who has been the chairman of several of our late church conventions, was recently granted the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Iowa State College.

**Hartford, Conn.**—The mother of Rev. Willard Garred who visited with her son through the summer, became ill shortly after her return to Denmark, and died a few weeks later in the hospital.

The Ladies' Aid of Hartford recently voted to give \$300 to their church, also voted a sum of \$50 to the Santal Mission and \$25 to the Seamen's Mission. —They also recently installed a new steel sink in the church kitchen, total improvements of several hundred dollars.

**Grayling, Mich.**—At a meeting on October 17th the church boards of the Grayling Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Messiah Lutheran Church of Roscommon met to discuss a merger of the two churches on a synodical basis. It was decided that for the time being Rev. Svend Holm, who serves our Grayling church, was to give the Messiah Lutheran Church pulpit service and also assist with the Sunday school every Sunday. This service has been rendered since November 1st.

**Omaha, Nebr.**—Rev. Erik K. Moller of Hay Springs, Nebr., former pastor of the Omaha church, spoke in Omaha Fri-

day evening, November 21st, after having attended the Home Mission Council in Des Moines.

**Fredsville, Iowa**—The Fredsville church choir will sing selections from the Christmas Cantata "Chimes of the Holy Night" over Radio station KXEL (1540 Kilo) on Sunday evening, December 28, 6:15-6:45 p. m. The choir consists of twenty-two voices and is directed by Mrs. Ted Hansen of Cedar Falls and accompanied by Mrs. Marvin Nygaard.

**Rev. J. C. Aaberg** is at present serving the Muskegon, Mich., church. He has served there since the middle of November and will likely serve until the new pastor, Rev. Edwin E. Hansen and his family can move there in February.

**St. Stephan's Chicago.**—Rev. Brenstein, a Christian Jew, spoke to a meeting at the St. Stephen's church on Thursday evening, Dec. 18, on the topic: "The Jew Forsaken." The meeting was sponsored by the young people of the church.

**Rev. Harald Riber** writes from India: "We really had a wonderful trip, no bad weather, good accommodations, good food, good times, etc. The better part of the first three weeks here has been spent in sort of getting orientated. Then too, we have been getting settled in our temporary home here at Maharo. We have it very nice here, good living quarters with plenty of space and we eat together with the three Norwegian ladies who are in charge of the Maharo Girl's school. We find, much to our amazement and to our general pleasure, that the food is not so different from what we are accustomed to eating back home and that the weather during this 'cold season' is at least as delightful as southern California climate. We are told that it will be getting quite chilly toward the end of December.

"Mary and I are cycling to Dumka for a lesson in Santali from Miss Milda, a Norwegian lady who stays with the Hellands. It is a six mile jaunt from here and we do it three or four times a week, so we're getting some good exercise out of the deal, too."

Harald and Mary send greetings to their friends here at home. Let us remember to write to them; their address is: Maharo, Dumka P. O., Santal Parganas, Bihar, India.

**Rev. Mafius C. Dixen**, the secretary-treasurer of the Santal Mission Board here in our country left December 10th by airplane from New York and should according to plan be in Calcutta, India, on Dec. 15. He made the journey in company with similar representatives from the Scandinavian countries to look over the field for possible expansion of the Santal Mission field and needed improvements.

**Two Congregations** have extended invitations to be hosts to the next annual church convention: Solvang, California and Greenville, Mich. Ballot cards have been sent out to all voting members of the last convention for a vote on



the place for the next convention. We hope to bring the results in the next issue of L. T.

"Julegranen" our Danish Christmas magazine has not appeared yet as we are ready to send this material to press. According to reports it should come

and we know that August Bang again this year has a good Christmas magazine ready for us. We urge all our Danish readers to be loyal to the tradition of having a "Julegranen" in every home.

**Tyler, Minn.**—Besides meeting their quota to the Lutheran World Action the Tyler community is also collecting donations for a car load of grain to be shipped to Europe.—Also clothing, shoes, bedding, etc., is being collected again this winter.

**Manistee, Mich.**—Two of the faithful members of the church have recently been laid to rest: Anton Larsen, 91 years old, who died on October 11th, and Peter Simonsen, 84 years old, who died on October 15th. Rev. John Christensen of Ludington officiated at both services.

**Racine, Wis.**—The traditional Danish Christmas service over the Radio will not be heard this year as it has not been possible to get the necessary time for same on the radio.

## Acknowledgement Of Receipts From The Synod Treasurer

### For the Month of November, 1947

#### Towards the Budget:

Previously Acknowledged	\$ 5,544.36
Congregations—	
Muskegon, Mich.	33.61
Grayling, Mich.	75.00
Clinton, Ia.	50.00
Des Moines, Ia.	35.00
Askov, Minn.	17.72
Omaha, Nebr.	40.00

#### Earmarked Pension Fund:

Congregations—	
Grayling, Mich.	12.89
Waterloo, Ia.	15.00
Canwood, Sask.	11.30
Dalum, Alta.	27.22
Rosenborg, Nebr.	24.45
Danevang, Tex.	100.00
Parlier, Calif.	12.00
Easton, Calif.	32.00
Danish Ladies' Aid, Tyler, Minn.	25.00
Hope Ladies, Ruthton, Minn.	10.00
Ladies' Aid, Rosenborg, Nebr.	5.00
Pastors' contributions—	
Canwood, Sask.	10.00
Dalum, Alta.	10.00

#### Earmarked Home Missions:

"In Memory of Mrs. Carl Sorensen, Tyler, Minn. and Mrs. Jorgen Paulsen, Askov, Minn.," Mrs. Fred Bisballe, Royal Oak, Mich.	2.00
South Lutheran Society and Danish Ladies' Aid, Viborg S. D.	25.50
"In Memory of Hannah Knudsen," from Friends, Viborg S. D.	41.00
"In Memory of Harold Chris-	

topher," from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Perschnich and Sharon, Dwight, Ill.

#### Towards President's Travel Expenses:

Congregations—	
St. Stephens, Chicago, Ill.	70.00
Hay Springs, Nebr.	40.00
Brush, Colo.	18.65
Cordova, Nebr.	50.00
Misc. receipts to Lutheran Tidings	15.75

#### For Annual Reports:

Congregation—	
Brooklyn, N. Y.	6.00
Detroit, Mich.	2.50
Grant, Mich.	1.25
Des Moines, Ia.	4.25
West Denmark, Wisc.	3.50
Canwood, Sask.	1.75
Ruthton, Minn.	2.00
Viborg, S. D.	5.00
Danevang, Tex.	3.00
Cordova, Nebr.	2.00
Salinas, Calif.	1.75
Wilbur, Wash.	3.00

#### Earmarked Chicago Children's Home:

Miss Alice Jensen, Minneapolis, Minn.	3.00
Hope Lutheran Church, Ruth-ton, Minn.	13.69
Danish Ladies' Aid, Alden, Minn.	10.00

#### Earmarked Tyler Old People's Home:

Miss Alice Jensen, Minneapolis, Minn.	3.00
"In Memory of Hannah Knudsen," from Friends in Viborg, S. D.	22.00
Hope Lutheran Church, Ruth-ton, Minn.	13.69
Hope Ladies' Aid, Ruthton, Minn.	10.00
Danish Ladies' Aid, Alden, Minn.	10.00

Total towards budget \$ 6,479.83

#### Received for Items Outside the Budget:

Lutheran World Action:  
Previously received (1946-1947) \$44,589.16

Congregations—	
Brooklyn, N. Y.	55.60
Trinity, Chicago, Ill.	591.20
Oak Hill, Ia.	4.00
Waterloo, Ia.	50.00
Exira, Ia.	32.20
Viborg, S. D.	92.50
Diamond Lake, Minn.	161.00
Des Moines, Ia.	249.50
Hay Springs, Nebr.	14.00
Cordova, Nebr.	150.00
Danevang, Tex.	312.00
Solvang, Cal.	12.92
"A Friend," Atlantic, Ia.	5.00
Sunday School, Diamond Lake, Minn.	10.00
"In Memory of Niels Siggaard, Volmer, Mont," Sam Sorensen and Family, Arthur Jonassen and Family, Soren Rasmussen and Family, Niels Rasmussen and Family	8.00
Hope Ladies' Aid, Ruthton, Minn.	50.00
"Anonymous," Tyler, Minn.	10.00
Mrs. Soren Larsen, Solvang, Cal.	7.00

Total to date \$46,404.08

#### GVC Dormitory Room Furnishings:

Received to date \$ 1,110.59

#### GVC Jubilee Fund, cash contributions:

Previously ascknowledged	\$71,671.97
Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Paulsen, Balsam Lake, Wisc.	25.00
Walter J. Nielsen, Seattle, Wash.	100.00

Total to date \$71,796.97

#### GVC Jub. Fund, contrib. in Bonds: (maturity value)

Contributions to date \$31,800.00  
Received from the Estate of Mads

Peter Nielsen, Manistee, Mich.	
To the Pastor's Pension Fund	\$ 1,021.29
Santal Mission	4,085.31
Danish Old People's Home, Des Moines, Ia.	1,021.29
Received from the Estate of of Sine Hansen, Council Bluffs, Ia.	
To the Pastor's Pension Fund	\$ 750.00

#### To the Eben-Ezer Institute, Brush, Colo.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert O. Olsen, Ruthton, Minn.	5.00
Hope Lutheran Church, Ruth-ton, Minn.	13.68
Hope Ladies' Aid, Ruthton, Minn.	5.00
From the Ladies' Aid, Rosenborg, Nebr., to the Danish Old People's Home, Des Moines, Ia.	5.00
"In Memory of Peter H. Sondergaard," by Mrs. Peter H. Sondergaard, Dwight, Ill., to the Danish Old People's Home, Des Moines, Ia.	8.00
From the Danish Luth. Ladies' Aid, Alden, Minn., to Grand View College, Des Moines, Ia.	10.00

Respectfully submitted,

**Olaf R. Juhl,**  
4752 Oakland Ave.,  
Minneapolis 7, Minn.

## Santal Mission

### General Budget—

English Lajdes' Aid, Askov, Minn.	\$ 14.45
Mrs. Jorg. Nielsen & Mrs. Henriksen, Tyler	2.00
Lillian & Thorv. Thomsen, Aurora, Neb.	2.00
Mrs. Toby Christensen, Cedar Falls, Iowa	5.00
Waterloo, Cedar Falls, Freds-ville Joint Meeting	95.15
Axel Thomsens, Marinette, Wis.	25.00
Danebod Danish Ladies Aid, Tyler, Minn.	35.00
Mrs. Clara Hornsyld, Solvang, Calif.	5.00
Mrs. C. Lund Thomsen, Del Rey, Calif.	9.50
Danebod Sunday School, Ty-fer, Minn.	42.87



Our Savior's Church, Omaha, Nebr. ....	79.25
Dagmar Ladies' Aid, Dagmar, Mont. ....	25.00
Dannevang Sunday School ..	29.00
Dannevang Lutheran Church ..	30.00
St. Ansgar's Ladies' Aid, Waterloo, Iowa ..	25.00
Bethania Ladies' Aid, Ringsted, Iowa ..	10.00
Andrew Petersen's, Alden, Minn. ....	5.00
Mrs. Ellen Olsen, Hartford, Conn. ....	1.00
Miss Anna Jacobsen, Hartford, Conn. ....	100.00
St. Stephen's Sunday School Chicago ..	25.00
St. Peter's Sunday School, Dwight, Ill. ....	101.32
Lutheran Junior Aid, Grayling, Mich. ....	5.00
Good Hope Ladies' Aid, Hetland, South, Dakota ..	10.00
Carl Olsens, Des Moines, Iowa ..	5.00
Kirsten Poulsen, Chicago ..	25.00
From the Greenville Community—	
North Sidney Ladies' Aid ..	25.00
Trinity Church Circle ..	10.00
Mrs. Alma Christensen ..	1.00
Robert Allens ..	10.00
Mrs. P. L. Petersen ..	1.00
Mrs. P. W. Petersen ..	1.00
Walter Nielsens ..	1.00
Neva Nielsen ..	.50
Settlement Trufant Mission Group ..	20.00
Carl Petersen ..	1.00
Mrs. Effie Hansen ..	6.00
Christopher Christensen ..	2.00
Greenville Mission Group ..	10.00
St. John's Ladies' Aid, Hampton, Ia. ....	4.55
A Friend in South Dakota ..	25.00
Danebod English Ladies' Aid, Tyler, Minn. ....	25.00

Mrs. P. H. Lind, Hampton, Iowa ..	2.00
Kimballton Mission Circle, Kimballton, Iowa ..	10.00
Peter Nielsens, Tyler, Minn. ....	5.00
Gertrude Guild, Clinton, Iowa ..	10.00
Friendship Circle, Kimballton, Iowa ..	13.85
Mrs. O. Jacobsen, Troy, N. Y. ....	5.00
Danish Ladies' Aid, Viborg, South Dakota ..	30.00
Hope Ladies' Aid, Ruthton, Minn. ....	10.00
From the Estate of Mads Peter Nielsen, Manistee, Mich. ....	4,085.27
Mrs. N. L. Andersen, Cedar Falls, Iowa ..	5.00
Danish Ladies' Aid, Alden, Minn. ....	10.00
Mrs. Minnie Mathisen, Minneapolis, Minn. ....	5.00
Hans Hansens, Tyler, Minn. ..	5.00
Memory Gifts—	
In memory of J. E. Slott, Enumclaw, Wash., By Andrew Johnsons, Tacoma ..	3.00
In memory of Harold Christopher, Dwight, Ill., Clarence Petersens, Chicago ..	3.00
In memory of Harold Christopher, Dwight, Ill., Martin Paulsen family, Charley Lauritzens, Hans Andersens, Chris Ribers, Peter Sondergaards, Crona Jensens, Victor Jensens Bert Bloxams, Elmer Jensens, Peter Reimers, Joe Tissieres, Arthur Christiansens, Martha Rosendahl, Bodil Nelson, Dr. and Mrs. A. W. Weldon and Dr. and Mrs. O. D. Gingrish, all of Dwight, Ill. ....	37.00
In memory of Mrs. Caroline Jorgensen, Kimballton, Ia. Dist. 4 W. M. S. Meeting in Newell, Iowa ..	90.01
In memory of Chr. Sorensen, Askov, Minn., Elna & Mrs. L. C. Pedersen ..	1.00
In memory of "Mother" by Hans Madsen, Solvang, Calif. ....	5.00
In memory of Mrs. Ane K. Petersen, Danevang, Tex., Rev. M. Mikkelsens, Minneapolis, Minn. ....	5.00
In memory of Mrs. Bertha Christensen, Racine, Wis., Peter Hansens and Mrs. Christine Christensen, Hartford, Conn. ....	6.00
In memory of Peter H. Sondergaard, Dwight, Ill., Mrs. Sondergaard ..	8.00
In memory of Niels Jessen, Tyler, Minn., Michael Jorgensens ..	5.00
In memory of Thomas Miller, Withee, Wis., Rev. J. L. J. Dixens ..	1.00
In memory of Rev. A. C. Kildegard, Wm. Sorensens, Gardner, Ill. ....	2.00
In memory of Ove Jorgensen, Tyler, Minn., from	

Friends .....	23.00
In memory of Parents and Friends at Withee, Wis., Andreas, Karen, and George Jacobsen, Lake Geneva, Wis. ....	20.00
For children in school—	
St. John's Ladies' Aid, Hampton, Iowa ..	25.00
Lutheran Guild, Withee, Wis. ....	25.00
Bethania Ladies' Aid, Ringsted, Iowa ..	10.00
Danish Ladies' Aid, Withee, Wis. ....	25.00
For Lepers—	
P. C. Petersen, Chicago, Ill. ....	25.00
For Rev. Harold Ribers Mission Work—	
St. Stephen's Mission Group, Chicago ..	10.50
Marinette and Menominee Mission Circle ..	25.00
Correction:	
The \$9.50 from Del Rey, Calif., was earmarked for Dr. Dagmar Petersen's work	

Total for Nov. .... \$ 5,396.12

Total since Jan. 1st ..... 11,900.89

Acknowledged with sincere thanks.

Dagmar, Miller,  
Tyler, Minn.

Money Orders made out payable at Hampton, Iowa. Thanks.



### Manager And Housekeeper Wanted

Tyler Old People's Home has a position open July 1, 1948, for a Danish-speaking couple who will manage the home. The woman should be able to run the household and the man should know how to run a small farm. Applications must be received before March 1, 1948. Further information may be gotten from

**Rev. Enok Mortensen**  
Tyler, Minn.

NEW ADDRESS—If you move, then write your name and new address in the space provided. Be sure to state what congregation you belong to. Clip this out so that the old address is included and mail to LUTHERAN TIDINGS, Askov, Minn.

I am a member of the congregation at \_\_\_\_\_

December 20, 1947

Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

JENSEN, JENS M.  
TYLER, MINN.

RTE. 2,